25 April, 2012

**Update meeting on IP processes and follow up actions**

Skype Meeting among Josephine Tucker, Eva Ludi and Alemayehu Belay

Points discussed include:

* All IPs have discussed the Innovation Fund at least briefly, and are familiar with the amount of money available and the criteria for funding. Due to priorities in each site, and the desire to use the fund to fill gaps in what other actors are doing around soil/water conservation / termite control, it looks like the focus will be on livestock feed management in all sites.
* All IPs have identified a small team to prepare the proposal, who will bring a draft /outline proposal to the next meetings (mid-May for Diga and Fogera, end-May for Jeldu.) At these meetings the NBDC facilitators will help to flesh out the written proposals.  At this point we can look at the proposals and discuss any technical issues – may have to draw on ILRI’s livestock expertise here
* We hope that facilitators will soon be contracted for the IPs who can manage the fund – but we await the outcome of meetings with Ethio-Wetlands and Hundee (The one with Hundee already took place today (30 April, 2012, and will need another round of meeting once the partnership agreement is sent to Hundee)). Otherwise we may have to contract local government office to manage the fund but this is likely to be bureaucratic.
* Katherine and Josie are looking into the formal reporting requirements of IWMI on the fund.
* In terms of monitoring (outcomes and processes) for our report on the innovation fund, rather than require facilitators to write long reports this should be light-touch and can probably mainly be done using participatory methods (e.g. go to the site and interview the implementers/facilitator, hold a discussion at an IP meeting, support implementers/communities to produce a photo story).
* Josie is working on the monitoring strategy, to be finalised in detail once the interventions are defined (mid-late May).